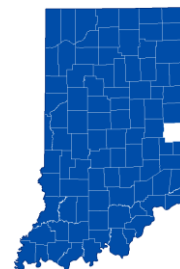




## CLEAN Community Challenge Success Story: Partnering with Earlham College Richmond, Indiana



### **Background**

Earlham College, located in Richmond, participates in a national scholarship program, the Bonner Scholars Program, which requires scholarship recipients to perform a certain number of hours of volunteer community service. Since many Earlham students are interested in environmental issues, it was a logical choice for the city of Richmond to offer the students volunteer opportunities within city government. It was a win-win situation for Richmond's CLEAN program to have the opportunity to leverage city resources with the hard work of the student volunteers.

### **Goal**

To partner with Earlham College in placing student volunteers within the city, introducing students to municipal government and providing additional assistance for CLEAN projects.

### **Accomplishments and Tasks Completed**

- The first student volunteer helped create the data baseline for Richmond's 3-year CLEAN goals and coordinated student volunteers to pick up white paper, metal, and glass for recycling.
- The next two scholars coordinated volunteers to canvas key neighborhoods to promote the sanitation district's recycling program. They also took on the responsibility of collecting the city building recycling.
- The next volunteer assisted the Townsend Community Center with rainwater barrels and a community garden. She also put up an informational bulletin board in the city building to promote recycling.
- The city's most recent student volunteer coordinated an environmental summit, which brought approximately 20 local groups with environmental interests together to share successes and coordinate activities. He is also interested in community development and has been involved in the city's revised zoning ordinance and the new transportation plan based on Complete Streets planning. He is involved in the North Richmond Neighborhood Plan where the Townsend Center is located. The plan includes a focus on local food production.

### **Savings**

Although the city has not calculated the cost savings associated with utilizing the student volunteers, the CLEAN stakeholder committee has been able to accomplish more with their Quality of Life Plan because of their partnership with Earlham.

### **Recommendations from the city of Richmond**

- Take advantage of the students' interests when assigning volunteer activities.
- Make sure that it is clearly understood what the goal of the student project is and to whom the student reports.
- Set up a system to track volunteer hours worked and calculate the cost savings for those services provided.